

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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Partner Reduces Landfill Waste by 60% and Cardboard Usage

The Member

DENSO Manufacturing Athens Tennessee, Inc. (DMAT), is part of DENSO Corporation's global network of 74 subsidiaries in 29 nations and the fourth largest producer of advanced technology, components and systems for all major automakers. DMAT employs more than 800 associates. Automotive components and systems produced at the DMAT include the following:

Oxygen sensors, fuel injectors, air-flow meters, ignition coils, monolithic carriers and spark plugs

The Story - Cardboard was Sent to the Landfill

DENSO's Ceramic Products Plant receives component parts from suppliers in cardboard boxes. The plant only had one trash compactor for all solid wastes. Cardboard was mixed with the solid waste and sent to the landfill.

In 2001, the Ceramic Products Plant sent an average of 24.2 tons of solid waste per month to the landfill.

New Idea - Install a Cardboard Compactor and Reduce Use of Cardboard Packaging

A cardboard compactor was installed. Cardboard is now segregated from the solid waste and sent for recycling.

DENSO has also been working to reduce the quantity of one-time use cardboard packaging that is shipped into the facility. The DENSO Packaging Department works with suppliers to evaluate the potential use of returnable packaging. When possible, cardboard boxes are being replaced with plastic returnable totes. The returnable totes can be used multiple times instead of the one-time use cardboard packaging.

The Success

The Ceramic Products Plant was sending an average of 24.2 tons of waste to the landfill each month prior to the installation of the cardboard compactor. The Plant is now sending an average of 9.6 tons of waste to the landfill each month. The Plant has reduced its landfill waste by 60% with the addition of the cardboard compactor.

Approximately one-third of the Ceramic Products Plant's suppliers are currently using returnable packaging. Another one-third of the suppliers are scheduled to be switched to returnable packaging in the next year.

The Pollution Prevented

In 2002, 185 tons of cardboard were recycled by the Ceramic Products Plant. Switching additional suppliers to returnable packaging has prevented the use of 25 tons of cardboard each year.